

# Quid Novi

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SEPTEMBER 23, 1981

## No To Grading Proposal

Last Thursday Faculty Council refused to sanction a controversial proposal for a new grading system but, in a surprise move, voted to send the BSA proposal back to Senate unchanged.

The grading proposal would retain the present letter grades but in a radically altered system. Numerical percentage equivalents would be introduced, also to appear on a student's record, and would be used to rank students within classes. Honours points averages would become optional and the criteria for advancing to an upper year would ultimately be changed: Students with a weighted percentage over 60 would be promoted regardless of how many courses they failed; those with between 50 and 60% would repeat the year; a student who received less than a 50% (C)

average would not be readmitted.

The proposal, tabled by Professor Scott, acting for Chairman of the Exam Board Professor Haanappel, was described as a consensus report of last year's Exam Board. The report was tabled for acceptance in principle, to be referred back to the Board for translation into detailed regulations. However, the document's status as a "consensus" report was immediately thrown into question when it was discovered that all present members of last year's Board, except Scott, had serious objections to it. Furthermore, Campbell Stuart claimed that reports he had received indicated that the two students on the Board last year had by no means agreed to the proposals. Scott

(Continued page 2)

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

## decision on exam schedule postponed

The L.U.S. General Assembly last Thursday was attended by barely a quorum of students, who postponed any resolution on the exam schedule until a later date.

Quorum for General Assemblies is 100, and only about 110 students showed up. The low turnout was attributed partly to the scheduling of some tutorials at the same time. As reported in Quid Novi last week, the BSA program was rejected this summer by the Academic Policy Committee of the University Senate. Students at the Assembly were generally in favour of the

program. Helena Lamed, student rep. on Faculty Council, questioned whether it is the students' place to make up for Faculty apathy with respect to a compulsory course. Ann Soden replied that it is the personal contact between first and upper year students that is the most important aspect of the program. Dave Griffiths, a second year student who experienced the BSA program, agreed with Soden, stating that the student-student relationship is more useful and successful than a student-faculty relationship could be.

Griffiths went on to forward the motion that "The students of the Faculty of Law of McGill University wish to reaffirm their support for the BSA program, and would like to have it reinstated in nearly identical form as was presented previously to the A.P.C." The motion was seconded by Susan Zimmerman and passed unanimously.

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 deepened the confusion considerably by intimation that some members of the Board were not even present when the "consensus" was arrived at. According to Scott, no one was entirely happy with the compromise agreement, but neither had anyone except former Associate Dean Glenn recorded any dissent at the time. Dean Brierly promised to investigate the matter further.

The proposal fared no better on its merits. Professor Wade, a member of last year's Board, was most emphatic in his rejection of the proposed system. By the way the scheme was arrived at, and its focus on numbers, the result was bound to be a failure. The scale of numerical equivalents was built around two absolutes: the students on the Board insisted on a pass mark of 50%, while faculty members fixed B at 70%.

The resulting scale was:

- F Less than 50%
- C 50 - 59%
- C+ 60 - 69%
- B 70 - 74%
- B+ 75 - 79%
- A 80 - 84%
- A+ 85% or over.

According to Wade, fixing two marks with 10 point spreads, three with 5 point spreads and one with 15, would build into the system an enormous distortion, and he wanted the proposal rejected on purely mathematical or statistical grounds. According to a calculation done by Wade, fifty to sixty-five students who currently have lower second class honours marks (0.8 - 1.49 CHPA) would move out of this category: 25% would move into the upper second class honours category, and 75% would fall into the "bare pass" division.

The report came under attack from other members of Faculty Council as well. Further discussion revealed that there was a very real possibility that Senate would refuse to accept a new system which differed from a new unified University grading system, from which Law is currently exempt. It was also revealed that no comprehensive testing of the effect of the new system had been carried out. In the end the Council voted by a wide margin to send the proposal back to the Board for reconsideration.

The other major discussion of Council

focused around the future of the BSA program. The subject was introduced by Professor Buckley who responded to each of the arguments given against the program by the Academic Policy Committee, and argued that after three years of discussion Faculty Council did not need to discuss the merits of the program further. He moved that it be resubmitted to APC, including the minutes of the Faculty Council meeting which had debated and adopted the program, as these would perhaps answer the committee's objections.

According to Professor H.P. Glenn, such an action would amount to a declaration of war on APC. Buckley responded that, in effect, war had already been declared, as the APC rejection was a slap in the face to the Law Faculty. "They just don't like us!" he concluded.

Council voted 14 - 5 to send the proposal back to APC.

MOOT COURT BOARD news for everyone: the ball is in your "court"...

-for FIRST year students, we welcome you and remind you that voluntary moots are scheduled for early November, an opportunity for you to practice for Mooting I next term;

-for SECOND year student, we remind you that Mooting II is coming up a lot sooner (September 30). Any student who has not yet signed up (with or without a partner) please leave a message at the Moot Court Board office immediately;

-for SECOND and THIRD year students, all applications for the Junior Moot Court Board should be in by now. Times for interviews will soon be posted;

-for THIRD and FOURTH year students, sign-up sheets are now posted for Mooting II judges. Please donate your time to this worthy cause!

-for all UPPER year students, information meetings will be held in coming weeks for the Jessup, Gale Cup, Interfacultaire and Quebec Bar Prize Moots. Please watch for posters announcing these meetings and remember - not only are they good experience and fun, but they are now fully credited courses!



## A WOMAN BARRISTER: AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER AND GOOD MORALS

J. ST-PIERRE (1916)

The Speakers Program started off last Friday with its first speaker: Beatrice Vizkelety from the Quebec Human Rights Commission and past president of the Montreal Association of Women and the Law, who spoke about discrimination against women in the legal profession.

Ms. Vizkelety began by going back into history, to 1915, when the first woman law graduate was refused admission to the bar for the reason that, according to that prestigious institution, the legal profession was not for women. An action was taken in Court but Mr. Justice St-Pierre held that for a woman to become a barrister, that is a person who pleads before the Courts, would be an infringement of public order and against good morals. Hopefully, as we have seen in Obligations, what is considered to be of public order and good morals varies according to the time and the territory. The territory has not changed much but we have come a long way since 1916.

According to a survey done by Queen's

University for the year 1979-80, only three law schools in Canada had more than 40% of women law students: Ottawa (The Common Law section), Calgary, and McGill (Civil Law section). However the problem is not really getting into law school but rather finding employment after graduation.

A study done by "Le jeune barreau du Québec" shows that women can be found mostly in the areas of family law, legal aid and governmental jobs while their male counterparts work in corporate law, commercial law and criminal law. As far as remuneration is concerned fewer women are in the higher bracket salaries and 27% are below the \$15,000/yr. mark.

Discrimination still exists and the fact cannot be denied. It is not a problem exclusive to the legal profession though one would hope that the Bar Association would make a particular effort to see that s.10 of the Quebec Human Rights Charter be respected by its members.

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The pace of the assembly increased somewhat when Campbell Stuart, L.U.S. President, agreed to discuss the exam schedule. The major concerns of the students were voiced in questions such as "Where did you get the authority to draw up the exam schedule?" and "Why were the class presidents not consulted?" Campbell replied that he bases his authority on the fact that this idea was passed by the LUS Council two years ago, was supported in the White Paper and was on his election platform last year. Stuart then asked if someone wanted to make a motion to have a new schedule made up by some different method. He cautioned however that Professor Rod MacDonald, the Associate Dean, has refused to allow students who have made course changes because of the schedule to scrap these changes. At this point Ken Melquist suggested that any resolution passed at the current meeting would be invalid because the students attending were not representative of the student body. He stated that students who were happy with the exam schedule had perhaps not attended the meeting. Brian

Elkin challenged this statement by pointing out that the situation had been similar with respect to the Day of Silence last year. In that case, the Assembly had gone ahead with a vote.

The point became moot when those with a two o'clock class were forced to leave and there was no longer a quorum. Another meeting concerning the exam schedule was tentatively set for Thursday, September 24th, at 1:00 p.m.

Another matter discussed was the curriculum committee's suggestion that McGill add some form of legal writing to its compulsory degree requirements. The general attitude towards this idea was favourable.

Campbell Stuart announced the setting up of a committee of the LUS to look into possible constitutional reform of our student government. Any one interested should watch the LUS notice board.

In addition, Campbell suggested a thank-you note be sent to the Social Committee for their much appreciated efforts in organizing the welcome week events.



# What's What

BY MARTINE TURCOTTE

## THE JOB BANK

A few years ago, when third and fourth year law students were looking for a place to do their articling, the yellow pages were a best seller. But even a best seller does not always give you all the information you need. Though you could find the name of law firms and their phone numbers, you had no indication whatsoever as to who was the recruiting officer and what areas of the law were practised. An urgent need for a specific source of information arose.

In 1976, two students, Judy Jokinen and Peter Chepya, tried to fulfill that need by creating a group whose goal was to keep students informed of job opportunities and assist them in their search for employment. The Job Bank Committee was thus born. Though the results were at first rather discouraging, due to some indifference on the part of law firms, the committee continued its work. The summer of 1980 was to bring significant results.

It was under the directorship of Louis Fried and David Peippo that the "Projet Emploi Droit" was launched. The project was subsidized by the Federal Government, the McGill Faculty of Law, The Canadian Bar Association, the Quebec Bar, The Chamber of Notaries and the "Association des Etudiants en Droit de l'Univer-

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Opinions expressed are those of the author only.

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Special thanks to Dean Brierly and Ms. Hélène Marion.

sité de Montréal." Its purpose was to put together information concerning job opportunities in law firms and notaries' offices. In order to do so, students working on the project had to visit the various firms in the Montreal area. The results of the survey were then published. The handbook containing them is available at the circulation desk on the fourth floor of the library. It has proved itself to be very useful to students who are seeking either a summer job, an articling position, or even permanent employment.

The Job Bank Handbook gives you the name, address and telephone number of the different firms as well as the name of the person in charge of recruiting students. It also provides information such as the area of law the firm is interested in, the mode of selection for summer jobs and articling positions and even the possibility of future employment. It goes even further and tells you the working conditions of a particular office, the salary offered as well as the benefits available.

Although the "Projet Emploi Droit" is only for the use of Civil law students, Common law students were not forgotten. The "Western Mail Out" is essentially the same thing as the other project but gives information on law firms in the large urban centers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest and Yukon Territories.

As far as the province of Ontario is concerned, the Job Bank Committee simply subscribed to the Osgoode Hall Articling service since the work had already been done. Both the Western Mail Out and the Survey of the Osgoode Hall Articling service are available to students at the circulation desk.

Although it would seem that the committee has fulfilled its purpose, there remains the difficult task of updating the already existing list and extending the survey to other firms outside of Montreal. The directors, Louis Fried and Jean-François Léger, are looking for 15 to 20 students who would be willing to work with the committee. Anyone interested can leave a message at the Job Bank's mailbox which is beside Mrs. Allaire's desk at the entrance to the old building, or simply attend the next meeting of the Job Bank Committee, to be held very soon. ■

Next week: WOMEN IN LAW.



# SOCIAL REPORT

BY CLARE GAUDET

It is a well known principle among legal beagles that if law students work hard they play even harder. This year's social co-ordinator Marie-josé Beaudry and her committee have in the past week shown us a sample of what awaits the avid faculty party go-er.

This September marked the inauguration of an official Welcome Week. The week's good weather was an additional boost to get out and attend many of the special events. Judging from the response it received, Welcome Week was a real success story. Undoubtedly a little liquid courage does wonders in paving the way for a smooth introduction. The committee in planning the week's events got off to an early start. Plans for most of the year's activities are finalised in the summer. The logistics involved in party strategy (i.e. liquor permits, room reservations) necessitate pre-emptive planning as many groups on campus are vying for a limited amount of facilities.

A quick rundown of the highlights of this year's "social season" shows that it will include a wine and cheese party on October 21 to close Mooting II, and The annual Clash of the Titans between professors and students in the art of courtroom theatrics which will be held in early November. The Christmas party will be held at the Faculty Club for the first time. This will offer students a unique chance to see how the other side lives. The second semester will feature the annual banquet to be held at the M.A.A.A. on May 1. The banquet will be considerably cheaper than in years past: tickets will probaly sell for between thirteen and fifteen dollars.

This leaves everyone with enough time to practice their soft shoe routine for

## McGILL CAMPUS LEGAL AID CLINIC

The McGill Campus legal Aid Clinic would like to thank everyone who applied for a position with us. Unfortunately, due to the limited space we were only able to accept 50 of the 80 applications we received. We wish to thank everyone for their interest in the Clinic.

The Directors.

Skit Night on March 5. Also in March, if enough interest is shown, a sugaring off party might be held on the 19th instead of the more traditional beer bash. There will also be the annual "Bye Bye" party in January as well as a wine and cheese for Mooting I. (Vampires take note: a Blood Drive might be held in the spring.)

The social committee is hoping all these activities will be condusive to better relations between students and faculty. Not to mention that a good party offers welcome relief from the Paper Chase. If the first week's turnout is any indication of things to come, this year's social lineup will be a real credit to the committee's hard work.

## CLASS PRESIDENCY ELECTIONS

Effective and democratic student government requires participation. Class presidents are not only voting members of the L.U.S. Council but also act as a liaison between the Executive, the Council and the student body of his or her class. There will be a president for each of the following classes: B.C.L. I, B.C.L. II, B.C.L. III, LL.B. I, LL.B. II, LL.B. III, and B.C.L. - LL.B. IV.

Nominations for each of these posts will be accepted as of Wednesday, September 23. Nominations must contain the words "We, the undersigned, nominate \_\_\_\_\_, for the position of class president for the 1981-82 academic year." All nominations must be signed by ten (10) students eligible to vote. Each student nominating is eligible to nominate only the candidate of his choice who is in his own year and programme. Nominations must be submitted no later than at 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 25, to the Chief Returning Officer, Brian McDonough, who will be at the LUS office.

Campaigning will begin as of Monday, September 28 and will cease at 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30. Balloting will be held on Thursday, October 1, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Rules and regulations regarding the elections are posted on the LUS board in the basement.

P.S. Polling clerks will be very much needed. If your reputation is above reproach (!), and if you can offer a few hours on October 1, please contact or leave a note for Brian McDonough at the LUS office.





ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDIANTS EN DROIT  
UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL

LAW UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

As promised during my election campaign, full and regular disclosure of all financial transactions will be made this year. Financial statements will be published every two (2) months in Quid Novi.

I would like to make a few remarks concerning this particular set of statements. The LUS relies on two major sources of funding:

- The cafeteria contract with La Cantinière, Inc. which brings in \$3,500 a year (\$500/mo. from October to April, inclusively);

- Student fees, which amount to \$5.25 per student per term (about 2,750 per term, \$5,500 for the year).

Since we have not yet received income from these sources, our expenses have largely exceeded our revenues for this period. Please note, however, that the Dean has kindly offered to contribute \$400 towards the purchase of furniture and paint.

Our term deposit will expire this coming October 1st. Your recommendations as to its use are welcome and, in any event, all students will be consulted before anything is made definite.

Anyone who wishes to obtain more details should feel free to contact me. Just leave a note in my box in the LUS office.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES  
FOR THE FOUR (4) MONTHS ENDING  
AUGUST 31, 1981

REVENUE

Interest Income			
Term Deposit	\$ 333.02		
Correction on savings acct	<u>1.12</u>	\$ 334.14	
Social Activities			
May 1st Party		306.42	
Miscellaneous Income			
Proceeds from 1980-1981			
Students' Phonebook	\$ 31.00		
Student contributions for			
departed janitor's plaque	<u>45.40</u>	<u>76.40</u>	\$ 716.96

EXPENSES

Deposit for May 1982 Banquet			
(to be held at the MAAA)		\$ 200.00	
Social (May 1st Party)		338.20	
Office Supplies		114.22	
Telephone		84.27	
Miscellaneous (Including expenses			
for paint and furniture)		<u>759.46</u>	<u>1,496.15</u>

EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE

\$ 779.19





ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDIANTS EN DROIT  
UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL

LAW UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MCGILL LAW UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT AUGUST 31, 1981

ASSETS

Bank Accounts		
Bank of Montreal - Chequing	\$ 713.60	
Bank of Montreal - Savings	<u>2,152.07</u>	\$ 2,865.67
Term Deposit (Bank of Montreal)		6,000.00
Loans to Societies		
Women and the Law	\$ 300.00	
Sports Committee	67.64	
Bookstore	<u>145.00</u>	512.64
Accounts Receivable		751.87
Inventory (Beer and Wine)		<u>207.39</u>
		<u>\$10,337.57</u>

NET WORTH

Balance as at April 30, 1981		\$10,226.49
Add: Adjustments for prior year:		
-Income from 1981 Sports Tournament	\$516.27	
-Accounts Payable Written Off	<u>374.00</u>	890.27
		<u>\$11,116.76</u>
Deduct: Excess of Expenses over Revenue for the period between May 1st and August 31, 1981		779.19
		<u>\$10,337.57</u>

*Jacques A. Nadeau*  
Jacques A. Nadeau  
LUS Treasurer



McGill International Law Society

presents

LORD WILBERFORCE

- member of the House of Lords
- renowned international jurist

on

THE CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS OF LAW  
IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Wednesday, September 30

11:00 - 12:00

MOOT COURT

THE DAILY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

A student is needed to fill the post of Chief Returning Officer of The Daily Publications Society. Duties will include overseeing referenda and elections related to the Publications Society. An honorarium is offered to the C.R.O.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Three senior law students are needed to serve on the Judicial Committee of the Daily Publications Society. The Judicial Committee hears complaints regarding alleged violations of the Daily Publications Society constitution, which governs the McGill Daily. Experience in press-related litigation is the reward...

Persons interested in applying for these positions are asked to contact the selection committee of the Daily Publications Society, at 392-8955, Rm. B-03 in the Union Building, or get in touch with Luc Drouin at 286-8226.

The deadline is September 25th.

\*\*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday, September 23:

- \* 1:00 p.m. Room 202.  
General Meeting of the McGill International Law Society. Anyone interested in becoming a member is urged to attend.

Wednesday, September 30:

- \* 11:00 p.m. Moot Court.  
LORD WILBERFORCE will speak on The Contemporary Developments of Law in a Global Context.

L.U.S. SECRETARY

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Thursday, Sept. 24  
1:00 p.m. Moot Court

AGENDA: Exam schedule  
Course evaluations modification.

NOTE: The Agenda, as always, is open. Additions may be made in the blue AGENDA binder or at the beginning of the meeting.

Wednesday, September 23.  
6:00 p.m. Room 202

AGENDA:  
Summer reports  
Preliminary Committee Reports  
Reports from Student Society Rep.  
and Senate Rep.  
Faculty Meeting, Sept. 17, Report  
Timetable of meetings, Council and  
General Assemblies  
L.U.S. constitutional revision.  
Marks survey  
Bookstore report  
Course evaluations

NOTE: The Agenda is subject to revision, and any student wishing to make additions may so request at the meeting. Ted Claxton, Studsoc Rep., has asked to be given the floor for his report at six o'clock as that body has a meeting at the same time. Please be prompt.